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Canadian Forestry Service-Maritimes
TECHNICAL NOTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE MARITIMES AT THE END OF JULY 1986

In this report, the third in 1986, we briefly discuss forest pest conditions as they appeared in the Maritimes at the end of July 1986.

Pinewood nematode, an organism of great concern because of implications in international commerce, has been found in three (3) of several hundred samples taken. All three samples were from southeastern New Brunswick and all three were of pine, two jack pine and one eastern white pine. Surveys for the pinewood nematode are continuing and in addition to pines, balsam fir and spruce are also sampled. Also, because the whitespotted sawyer beetle is suspected as a possible vector, adults of this insect are collected for laboratory analysis. It would be appreciated if, when found, sawyer beetle adults could be sent to us live by our cooperators from anywhere in the Maritimes.

Spruce budworm aerial defoliation surveys have been completed in all three provinces. The results are being analysed and information should be available shortly through appropriate channels.

Gypsy moth feeding is coming to an end in the Region. Larvae were reported this year only from Nova Scotia from New Minas, Kings Co., Annapolis Royal, Annapolis Co., Weymouth, Digby Co., and Bridgewater, Lunenburg Co. Only a few larvae were observed in most of these areas. The adult trapping program, a multi-agency effort, is underway and includes a trap-out control trial in Fredericton, N.B.

Sulphur dioxide and other air pollutants eminating from a mine shaft in northcentral New Brunswick have caused considerable

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damage to trees in young black spruce plantations. Some trees are dead, others are in various stages of deterioration. The foliage of hardwood trees is also affected in the area.

European pine shoot moth populations have increased over previous years in some areas and increased shoot damage occurred, especially in red pine plantations in the eastern two thirds of Prince Edward Island.

Yellowheaded spruce sawfly caused severe or moderate defoliation in a number of black spruce plantations in eastern Prince Edward Island and where the outbreak has occurred over several years some of the trees could soon be killed.

Balsam woolly adelgid ("aphid"), an insect of considerable economic importance in coastal areas in the past, appears to be on the rise again in parts of its former range. More than half of the trees were found affected in a stand in southern New Brunswick.

Coniferous foliage insects of note include: balsam twig aphid, common in all three provinces, affected 30% of the new shoots of most trees in an area of southern New Brunswick. Balsam gall midge is widespread on needles of balsam fir throughout the region but populations appear very low. Cedar leaf miners caused severe browning in central Prince County in Prince Edward Island and m ay also be part of a browning complex over wide areas of southern New Brunswick.

Hardwood foliage insects have become more obvious during the month of July. Birch leafminer-, and birch casebearer-, caused browning has intensified in most parts of the Maritimes although the intensity of browning of wire and white birch in some areas appears to be less than last year. Larch aspen tortrix and forest tent caterpillar together caused moderate defoliation of trembling aspen in several areas of Pictou County, Nova Scotia. In western Nova Scotia various degrees of hardwood defoliation occurred on more than 20 000 ha, mostly in Yarmouth and Shelburne counties and affected oak and maple stands most severely. A number of insects acted together but fall cankerworm appears to have been the main defoliator. This insect also defoliated trees in several areas in the eastern part of the Province. Alder flea beetle caused severe browning in parts of eastern Nova Scotia and in Charlotte County, New Brunswick. Elm leaf miner is severe in municipalities in all three provinces where "English" elm is the major shade tree and elm leaf beetle is causing leaf browning and early leaf fall in Fredericton, N.B.

Diseases, in addition to those reported earlier, included very severe infection of balsam fir regeneration by needle rust in cut-over areas in northern New Brunswick. Dutch elm disease symptoms are much in evidence and indicate further intensification of the disease within its range. Twig and leaf blight of trembling aspen was common in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and as much as 78% of the shoots were killed on most trees in an area in New Brunswick. Leaf spots are very common, and often severe, this year on many hardwoods.

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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